

March 18, 1976

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Are you amending the levy section?

SENATOR MURPHY: Yes sir.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: That's on page eight of the white copy?

SENATOR MURPHY: I'm not certain of the page, Senator. Yes, I think it is.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: So that now there would be a two percent levy against the specific health care provider for whom there was not insurance available.

SENATOR MURPHY: Up to two percent.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK, so that if it were the nurse and anesthetists who lost their insurance this would go into effect for them, but the physicians and the LPN's and the hospitals would not be assessed any amount.

SENATOR MURPHY: No sir, that's not correct, Senator.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright.

SENATOR MURPHY: Whatever the health care provider who is affected may be ... the assessment may be levied up to two percent. The other providers, based on their involvement and upon principally their proportionate income level, could be assessed not to exceed one-half of whatever the assessment is and could be nothing in effect. He could exempt a particular class if he so desired, if he felt that the levy was proper and that it accomplished the purpose of the bill.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Now that's what I don't understand at all. You see as I understood the problem with this bill was that you'd have a case where one particular segment of the health industry ... insurance was not available. Then under Section 8(2) that would trigger this assessment among all health care providers. To cover that particular segment, and they'd be all assessed equally, and that's what everybody else objected to.

SENATOR MURPHY: The apparent flat assessment of everyone at two percent was the objection that was raised, yes.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But now you're going to give the Insurance Commissioner the authority to pick and choose among the various health care providers who will be assessed and who won't be.

SENATOR MURPHY: The Director will have the authority to determine the needs of the pool under this, Senator. He can assess up to two percent on the specific carrier affected and not more than one-half of whatever that assessment may be. If it would be one it could not exceed one-half for the other, or he can assess nothing to the other providers if he deems it proper. Yes, someone has to have the latitude to make that selection.